WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent effective to elicit an immunogenic response to alpha-synuclein and an adjuvant.

2. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the agent is alpha-synuclein or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

3. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the agent is alpha-synuclein.

4. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2, wherein the agent is immunogenic alpha-synuclein fragment.

5. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4, wherein the agent is NAC.

6. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the agent is linked to a carrier molecule to form a conjugate.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1-5, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

8. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of QS21, monophosphoryl lipid, alum and Freund's adjuvant.

9. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent effective to elicit an immunogenic response against an alpha-synuclein component of an amyloid plaque in a patient.

10. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the agent is alpha-synuclein or an immunogenic alpha-synuclein fragment.

11. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the agent is alpha-synuclein.

12. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the agent is an immunogenic alpha-synuclein fragment.

13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein the immunogenic alpha-synuclein fragment is NAC.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the agent is an antibody or fragment thereof specifically binds or an alpha-synuclein component of an amyloid plaque.

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody that specifically binds alpha-synuclein or a fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the antibody specifically binds alpha-synuclein.

17. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the antibody specifically binds an alpha-synuclein fragment.

18. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition claim 15, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

19. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition claim 15, wherein the antibody is human.

20. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition claim 18 or 19, wherein the antibody is an antibody of human IgG1 isotype.

21. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition claim 15, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

22. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claims 15, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

23. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition claim 15, wherein the antibody is prepared from a human immunized with alpha-synuclein peptide.

24. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating a disease characterized by an amyloid deposit in a patient, comprising an effective dosage of an antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds to an amyloid component present in said deposit, wherein the amyloid component is a alpha-synuclein or a fragment thereof.

25. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the synuclein fragment is NAC.

26. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 25, wherein the antibody specifically binds to a synuclein fragment without binding to alpha-synuclein (SEQ ID NO: 1).

27. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein said effective dosage is characterized by an amount of antibody or antibody fragment effective to produce a level in the patient serum of immunoreactivity against the amyloid component that is at least about four times higher than a serum level of immunoreactivity against the component measured in a pre-treatment control serum sample.

28. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes a carrier.

29. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for administration intraperitoneally, orally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intranasally, topically or intravenously.

30. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is formulated as a sustained release composition.